



Supporting Advisors on Inclusive Practices for Students with Disabilities



Curated by:
*Education Abroad:
Fundamentals of
Diversity, Equity &
Inclusion Task Force
2020-2021*

Introduction

Welcome to Diversity Abroad's Insights into the Field Resource. These e-learning resources are designed to provide professionals with insight and practical tools to support and advance inclusive excellence in global education.

Insights into the Field are facilitated by members of the Diversity Abroad community who are passionate about the field of diversity, inclusion, and global education. Each video includes a resource sheet of links and further information.

Presenters

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Guiding Questions

- How do we empower advisors to better support students?
- How can we be mindful of intersecting identities?
- How do we provide access to these students both virtually and in-person?

What we will discuss

- Disability Rights & Laws
- Accommodations & Presentation Best Practices
- Scenario & Discussion on Inclusive Advising
- Elements to Keep in Mind
- Call to Action

Disability Rights & Laws

Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines somebody with a disability as

- somebody with an impairment that impacts activities of daily life,
- has a history of such an impairment or
- is regarded as having an impairment

Some examples are of types of disability include:

- Physical Disability
- Auditory (Deaf/Hard of Hearing)
- Visual (Blind or Low vision)
- Learning
- Intellectual
- Chronic Health
- Psychiatric/mental health

Disability Rights and Law in an International Context

- International Students Studying in the U.S. are protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA is a landmark law this means that people with disabilities coming to the U.S. from abroad are also covered under these laws regardless of citizenship.
- Laws similar to those in U.S. may or may not exist in the countries students are considering for their international exchange experience.
- People with disabilities are subject to and protected by, the laws of the host country.
- Best practices for supporting a student going abroad would include understanding how to best support student with a disability by providing/understanding how needed service can be accessed abroad.

Accommodations & Presentation Best Practices

Common Accommodations



- ❑ Live Captioning such as CART or video captioning
- ❑ Sign Language interpreters
- ❑ Accessible formats (Braille, large print, electronic)
- ❑ Orientation and Mobility (O&M) training
- ❑ Early arrival

Best Practice: Welcome request, designate a contact to reach out to, and always double check accessibility.

Tips for Presenting

- ❑ Structuring your presentation
- ❑ Use no more than 6 bullets per slide
- ❑ Maintain high contrast colors, 18 pt font or higher
- ❑ Avoid flashing graphics
- ❑ Describe key images (charts, graphics)
- ❑ Don't race through your presentation

Scenario & Discussion

Scenario

A semester student requests a single
room

Checklist

- ❑ Ask if they have a housing accommodation or a connection with the university's Office of Disability (ODS)?
- ❑ If yes, ask for written permission for the study abroad office to contact with ODS and ODS will confirm the request.
- ❑ Afterwards, include the ODS advisor in the three-way conversation about the single room request.
- ❑ A common best practice is to accommodate a single room at no extra cost to the student.

Discussion

Discussion Questions

1

What do we mean by intersecting identities?

2

What steps should we take to create a uniformed, collaborative student support system?

3

What forms of collaboration are vital?

Discussion Key Takeaways

- ❏ Managing expectations
- ❏ Being proactive, not reactive
- ❏ Creating a student network
- ❏ Creating and fostering collaborative relationships
- ❏ Develop a universal design program focused on inclusive to all students
- ❏ Using inclusive language in promotional materials

Elements to Keep in Mind

Best Practices to Keep in Mind

Best Practices to Consider:

- **Challenge by Choice:** Students with Disabilities are experts in their own experience and needs. It is important to not make assumptions about a student's ability to participate in an international exchange program.
- **Collaboration is Key:** Global Programs office and Disability Supports office should be a great resource for each other.

Best Practices to Keep in Mind

- **Consider Funding for Accessibility**
 - Set aside a 2-3% of budget for disability-related accommodations.
 - There are Low-cost solutions and options when funds are limited.
 - Often times accommodations benefit all students not just those with disabilities.
 - Encourage students to apply for scholarships

Call to Action

Share your experience

1

How are you **including students with disabilities** in your programs?

2

Take the survey to share your resources.

3

Join the discussion on the community discussion board.

4

Connect with us and your colleagues

Contact Us

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Thank you!

